

Remarks/Arguments

With reference to the Final Action mailed December 1, 2004, Applicants offer the following remarks and argument.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 were originally presented for examination. Claims 1-2 and 4-15 were allowed in the Office Action of June 7, 2004, and Claim 3 was rejected on art. Applicants have amended claim 3 to distinguish over the one cited reference. In the subsequent Final Action of December 1, 2004, Claims 1-2 and 4-15 were allowed and Claim 3 was rejected, this time under 35 USC §112 (Second Paragraph).

Applicants have rewritten claim 3 to obviate the rejections under 35 USC §112 (Second Paragraph).

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The Final Action of December 1, 2004

In the Final Action of December 1, 2004 Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §112 (Second Paragraph) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The rejection was directed to the final paragraph, which had been previously amended to recite:

“thereafter extracting a character string, designating elements of the character string that correspond to elements included in the range of the array, and extracting character string segments consisting of the same number of elements as the elements of the pattern and having the elements of the character string as their first character.”

This claim was rejected because the phrase “the range of the array” lacked antecedent basis since there was no previously recited step of establishing or determining the range of the array.

The claim was also rejected because it was not clear whether the added paragraph claims the actual character extraction step itself or whether it also includes the steps that follow the character string extraction.

It was stated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the above rejections under 35 USC §112 (Second paragraph). Claims 1-2 and 4-15 were allowed.

Discussion

Applicants have amended as shown below:

thereafter extracting a character string, designating elements of the character string that correspond to elements included in the ~~range of the~~ search target array, and extracting character string segments from the character string, said character string segments consisting of the same number of elements as the elements of the pattern and having the elements of the character string as their first character.

Specifically, the phrase “the range of the array” which was said to lack antecedent basis (since there was no previously recited step of establishing or determining the range of the array) has been canceled, and replaced by the more precise “search target array” for which there is antecedent basis.

Additionally the phrase “extracting character string segments consisting of the same number of elements as the elements of the pattern and having the elements of the character string as their first character.” This paragraph was rejected because it was not clear whether the added paragraph claims the actual character extraction step itself or whether it also includes the steps that follow the character string extraction. Applicants

have amended the paragraph to recite “extracting character string segments from the character string, said character string segments consisting of the same number of elements as the elements of the pattern and having the elements of the character string as their first character.” This recites the character string extraction step itself, where the extracted character string segments consist of the same number of elements as the elements of the pattern and has the elements of the character string as their first character.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 3 as now amended particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims describe an invention that is properly allowable to the Applicants.

If any issues remain unresolved despite the present amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number shown below to arrange for a telephonic interview before issuing another Final Action or Advisory Action.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for a thorough and competent examination and for courtesies extended to Applicants' Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted

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